



Town of Acton

Resident's Guide to

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Compiled by:

The Acton Board of Health

The Acton Board of Health staff compiled this booklet from sources of information including various Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection publications.

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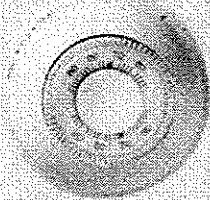
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Mercury Recovery Program

KEEP MERCURY FROM RISINGSM

Do Not Throw Products Containing Mercury
In The Trash Such As:

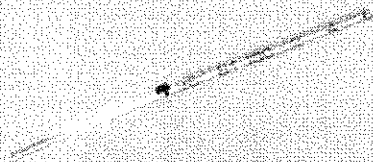
Thermostats



Mercury Switches

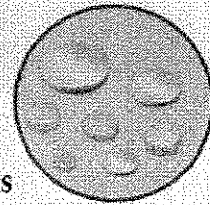


Thermometers



Button Cell Batteries

found in:
watches, cameras,
calculators,
hearing aids,
and personal organizers



Exchange

Your Glass Mercury Fever Thermometer
For a New Digital Thermometer

At the Acton Board of Health Office

8am – 5pm

Monday – Friday



Aerosol Products

Hazards

- ▶ Aerosol cans containing propellant are explosive if crushed or incinerated.
- ▶ Aerosol propellant can be flammable. Use away from heat or sparks.
- ▶ Breathing the propellant may be hazardous to human health.
- ▶ Some aerosol cans contain hazardous chemicals, e.g. pesticides, oven cleaner, etc.



Handling

- ▶ New can with defective nozzle should be returned to the point of purchase.
- ▶ Use up the contents or donate to someone who can use it. (The product and propellant are finely measured so that both are exhausted at the same time during usage.)
- ▶ Look for warning label on the product. Art materials are non-toxic if the label reads AP (approved product), CP (certified product), or HL (health label).
- ▶ Do not put full or partially full cans in the trash; they may explode in a trash truck.



Management Options

Empty aerosol containers: Aerosol can is empty when you no longer hear any air released when the nozzle is depressed and the can feels empty when shaken.

- ▶ Place in the trash.

Partially full containers that you know do not contain hazardous chemicals:

- ▶ To empty the can of its non-hazardous contents, discharge outdoors into a deep cardboard box or paper bag, and allow the box or bag to dry before placing in the trash. The empty aerosol container can then be recycled or disposed.

All other aerosol containers:

- ▶ Save for Acton Household Hazardous Waste Day. For the next date, please call (978) 264-9634.

Antifreeze



Hazards

- ▶ Toxic to small children and may be deadly to animals attracted by its sweet taste.
- ▶ Spent antifreeze may contain metals from the engine (lead, zinc, copper).
- ▶ Can disturb the biological action of sewage treatment and septic systems.



Handling

- ▶ Collect and store spent antifreeze in sealed, **labeled**, plastic or metal container, away from heat sources, children and pets.
- ▶ Never store in a beverage container; original container is best.
- ▶ Clean up spills with absorbent (kitty litter, shredded newspaper, vermiculite, rags, etc.); bag waste materials and discard in the trash. Flush soiled area with water.
- ▶ Do not mix with oil.
- ▶ Do not dispose down the drain.
- ▶ Do not dispose of in the trash: liquid wastes can leak in a trash truck.



Management Options

Unused Antifreeze

- ▶ Antifreeze does not go bad. Donate to a friend who can use it, a mechanic or school auto shop.

Spent Antifreeze

- ▶ Take to service station or repair garage that accepts spent antifreeze.
- ▶ If recycling option is not available, bring it to the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Call (978) 264-9634 for the next date.
- ▶ Note: More environmentally-friendly propylene glycol may contain the same pollutants after use and should be disposed as suggested above.

Empty Containers

- ▶ Dispose of these in the trash.

Some businesses that accept spent antifreeze at no charge:

- ▶ Valvoline Instant Oil Change (check phone directory for nearest location)

Appliances with CFCs



Hazards

- ▶ Appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers contain chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), a substance that when released, reacts with ozone in the upper atmosphere, reducing this layer's protective properties against ultraviolet radiation.



Handling

- ▶ Handle in a way that does not damage coils containing refrigerants.
- ▶ Under federal law, CFCs must be removed before the appliance can be discarded.



Management Options

- ▶ White goods, large appliances including ovens, washing machines and refrigerators, are banned from disposal in Massachusetts. All appliances using CFCs are included in this ban.
- ▶ These appliances are accepted for a fee at the Town of Acton Transfer Station. Call (978) 264-9624 for more information.
- ▶ If the appliance is still functioning, call your electric company to see if they have a take-back program for high demand appliances.
- ▶ Check Recycling Services Directory (download from the web at www.state.ma.us/dep/recycle under Business and Industry or call 617-236-7715 for copy) or Yellow Pages for scrap metal dealers who take white goods. Ask for certification that CFCs are removed according to EPA protocol.
- ▶ CFCs must also be removed from car air conditioners before they can be scrapped.

For more information, call EPA's Stratospheric Ozone Protection Hotline at (800) 296-1996 or (301) 614-3396.

Art & Crafts Supplies



Hazards

- ▶ Certain art and crafts supplies may contain toxic materials; inhalation, ingestion and dermal exposure to which may present a health risk.
- ▶ Certain solvent-based products may be flammable.
- ▶ Certain products contain heavy metals that cause hazardous emissions from waste-to-energy facilities.



Handling

- ▶ Know the contents of the materials you use; ask your supplier for a Material Safety Data Sheet or hotline for the product.
- ▶ Look for warning label on the product. Art materials should be non-toxic if the manufacturer has appropriately labeled the product AP (approved product), CP (certified product), or HL (health label).
- ▶ Use with caution, wear goggles and/or rubber gloves if needed.
- ▶ Provide fresh air to your work area and wear appropriate mask, if needed.
- ▶ Avoid procedures that create dust. Use wet sanding or dust heads to minimize dust levels.

- ▶ Clean up wet spills with absorbent (kitty litter, vermiculite or rags). Keep cleanup materials in closed metal containers and away from heat sources to prevent spontaneous combustion.
- ▶ Reduce hazards during mixing of clay, sanding, and glazing by using exhaust ventilation, such as a spray booth.
- ▶ Use brushing or dipping methods when possible rather than spraying or airbrushing.
- ▶ Use up products such as glues, adhesives, and solvents according to directions.



Management options

- ▶ If you have no further use for the product and it is in usable condition, try to give it away to someone who has a use for it.
- ▶ Do not dispose of toxic art and craft supplies down the drain.

Empty Non-Aerosol Containers and Hardened or Solid Non-Toxic Products:

- ▶ Dispose of these in the trash.

Liquid Non-Toxic Products:

- ▶ Evaporate or absorb liquid with cat litter or other absorbent and dispose in trash.

Toxic Products

- ▶ Leftover paints containing toxics, such as cadmium and chromium, should not go in the trash; Overpack in tight container if danger of leaking. Save these materials for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Call (978) 264-9634 for more information.
- ▶ Dried up toxic paints and adhesives can be put in the trash.

For more information about handling and disposal of arts and craft supplies, call Arts, Crafts and Theater Safety (ACTS) at 212-777-0062 or check their web page at www.caseweb.com/acts/

Asbestos



Hazards

- ▶ Microscopic asbestos fibers from friable (loose or crumbling) asbestos can be suspended in air and inhaled. Once inhaled, fibers remain in lungs, causing lung cancer.
- ▶ Asbestos may be found in pipe insulation and insulating boards, textured wall surfaces, electrical equipment, floor and roofing tiles and certain adhesives.



Handling

- ▶ If asbestos is in good condition, and fibers are not exposed, it does not need to be removed.
- ▶ Slightly damaged or loose asbestos can be re-wrapped rather than removed.
- ▶ Asbestos should be handled by a certified asbestos abatement contractor (call Massachusetts Department of Labor and Workforce Development at 800-425-0004 for list of licensed abatement contractors).
- ▶ DEP requires notification at least 10 business days prior to any asbestos removal activities. Call 617-292-5983 for more information.

- ▶ All asbestos containing materials must be containerized, labeled and removed in accordance with DEP regulations (see 310 CMR 7.15). Asbestos must be adequately wetted so that fibers will not be released, and sealed in leak-tight, properly labeled containers. If bags are used, they should be thick plastic (6 mil) and double bagged. The same handling procedures are required for contaminated clothes and equipment. Container must then be labeled with an OSHA approved asbestos warning label.
- ▶ Do not dust, sweep or vacuum particles suspected of containing asbestos.



Management Options

- ▶ All asbestos materials must be disposed of in landfills permitted to receive asbestos. Currently there is only one such permitted landfill in Massachusetts: Chicopee Landfill (formerly Partyka) 413-594-4172.
- ▶ Asbestos-containing asphalt roofing materials and vinyl asbestos floor tiles that are not broken and are removed in accordance with DEP regulations can be disposed of in designated solid waste landfills.
- ▶ For more information, call the Massachusetts Department of Labor at 1-800-425-0004.

Batteries, Automotive



Hazards

- ▶ Automotive batteries contain sulfuric acid that can burn skin.



Handling

- ▶ Handle batteries with acid resistant or leather gloves.
- ▶ Keep sparks and flames away from batteries and don't smoke nearby.
- ▶ Never place metal objects on top of the battery because it can cause sparks. Remove rings, chains, and other metallic items before handling.
- ▶ Keep batteries right side up.
- ▶ Carry in a non-metallic, leak proof container.
- ▶ If battery leaks, neutralize any spilled acid with baking soda or calcium carbonate (lime). Flush area with water.
- ▶ If acid comes in contact with skin, flush area with water immediately and seek medical attention, if burning continues.



Management Options

- ▶ Do not throw in the trash. Automotive batteries are banned from landfills and combustion facilities in Massachusetts.
- ▶ Most automotive battery retailers will accept used batteries when purchasing a new one.

- ▶ Take to service station or repair garage that accepts automotive batteries. Many garages, auto salvage operations, and scrap metal yards will take automotive batteries, provided they are not broken or leaking. Some will pay approximately \$1 each. Consult Recycling Services Directory or Yellow Pages for closest locations.

Batteries, Household



Hazards

- ▶ Batteries burned in waste combustion facilities can release mercury or cadmium to the air and water, ultimately entering the food chain and posing health threats to people and the environment.

Description Of Battery Categories

1. Alkaline batteries (AAA, AA, C, D and 9 volt): since 1994, most types contain no added mercury, and only contain trace amounts that are not hazardous. These batteries are marked “no added mercury” or have a green tree logo.
2. Nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries (NiCads) exist in many sizes and shapes and are marked RECHARGEABLE. Some may be built into rechargeable appliances. NiCads contain cadmium, a metal that is toxic to humans when inhaled or ingested.
3. Button batteries (small, round, silver-colored, used in watches and hearing aids): Many button batteries contain mercury, a metal that is toxic to humans when inhaled or ingested.
4. Lithium batteries (AA, C, 9 volt and button; mainly used in computers and cameras). Lithium is reactive with water, and has caused serious fires.



Handling

- ▶ Store in a secure, dry place out of the reach of children and pets. Button batteries can be swallowed because they are small and slippery.
- ▶ When storing rechargeable batteries for collection, keep in a vented, non-metal container. Rechargeable batteries should be placed individually in plastic bags before being stored together with other rechargeables.



Management Options

1. Alkaline batteries: Domestically manufactured batteries made after 1994 no longer contain mercury and can be disposed of in the trash.
2. Nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries: Do NOT dispose of in the trash. Take to a retail collection location or The Acton Board of Health Office. The Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation (RBRC) operates a collection program through selected retail stores and municipal recycling programs. There are currently over 400 collection sites in Massachusetts that are free to residents. Call 800-8-BATTERY for the nearest retail collection location.
3. Button batteries: Do NOT dispose of in the trash. Many stores selling watches or hearing aids will accept spent button batteries. They are also accepted at the Acton Health Department Office.
4. Lithium batteries: Hold for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.
5. **Nickel-cadmium, Lithium, and Button batteries are accepted at the Acton Board of Health Office during normal business hours M-F. Call (978) 264-9634 for more information.**



Driveway Sealer

Hazards

- ▶ May contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, many of which are carcinogenic and can be absorbed through the skin.



Handling

- ▶ Keep driveway sealer in closed containers.
- ▶ Wear rubber gloves when handling.
- ▶ Most driveway sealers are now latex products (water-based). Keep from freezing.



Management Options

- ▶ Try to use up what you have, if product is usable, or donate to neighbor who may use it.
- ▶ For surplus latex-based sealer, dry out in small amounts and place in the trash.
- ▶ Oil-based driveway sealer can be burned safely in small amounts in a waste-to-energy facility, but trash collectors may not take it if containers are too heavy.
- ▶ Dried driveway sealer, either latex or oil-based, can be thrown in trash with lid off.
- ▶ For surplus oil-based, take to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Electronics & CRTs



Hazards

- ▶ Electronic equipment, appliances with printed circuit boards, may contain lead from solder, mercury in switches, lithium batteries, and heavy metals in the printed circuit boards.
- ▶ Cathode ray tubes (CRTs), including televisions and computer monitors, contain from 2 to 5 pounds of lead per unit.
- ▶ Do not attempt to dismantle CRTs without proper training; dangerous levels of high voltage are stored in CRTs for varying periods of time.
- ▶ Implosion may result from impact or improper disassembly procedure. An explosion follows the implosion.



Handling

- ▶ Store and handle in a manner that minimizes breakage, especially of CRTs.
- ▶ Do not attempt to dismantle CRTs without proper training, high voltage in the capacitor can discharge a lethal charge.



Management

- ▶ **CRTs only** have been banned from disposal facilities as of April 1, 2000.
- ▶ If item is still functioning and usable, try to donate to a charity or non-profit group who may be able to use it.
- ▶ All other electronic devices, including computer processing units (CPUs), keyboards, stereos, VCRs and telephones may be accepted in scrap metal program if no electronics collection program is in place.
- ▶ CRTs are accepted at the Acton Household Hazardous Waste Day for a nominal charge. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Fire Extinguishers



Hazards

- ▶ Contents are under pressure and may explode when combined with other materials.
- ▶ Very old fire extinguishers may contain carbon tetrachloride, a known carcinogen.



Handling

- ▶ Two most common types include “dry chemical” (sodium bicarbonate or monoammonium phosphate) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) both of which are not hazardous.
- ▶ To empty contents, discharge outside, away from children or pets. Monoammonium phosphate is an irritant to eyes and the respiratory tract. Wear goggles and particulate mask when discharging extinguisher.



Management Options

Dry chemical extinguishers

- ▶ May be discharged in an area where an acidic fertilizer would be used such as around evergreens. **Do not use on lawns.**
- ▶ When relieving the pressure (emptying) the container for disposal, review manufacturers' instructions, or, if unavailable, use the **PASS** technique

Pull the pin: this unlocks the operating lever and allows you to discharge the extinguisher. Some extinguishers may have other seals or tamper indicators.

Aim low: Point the extinguisher nozzle (or hose) at the base of the item.

Squeeze the lever above the handle: this discharges the extinguishing agent. Releasing the lever will stop the discharge. (Some extinguishers have a button instead of a lever.)

Sweep from side to side.

- ▶ After pressure has been relieved (when nothing else comes out) remove the head from the container and place it with scrap metal or in the trash.

Carbon dioxide extinguishers

- ▶ These extinguishers are refillable and should be refilled after each use. Check Yellow Pages under Fire Extinguishers – Recharging.
- ▶ If the extinguisher becomes defective, drill holes in the cylinder after pressure has been relieved and then place in the trash.
- ▶ Ask fire equipment companies in your area if they will accept used extinguishers (listed in the Yellow Pages).

Very old fire extinguishers

- ▶ Consult the Acton Fire Department at (978) 264-9645.

Fluorescent Lamps



Hazards

- ▶ Fluorescent lamps, including energy saving compact fluorescents, contain mercury. When a lamp breaks, it releases mercury into the air, which is toxic to the human nervous system and can poison wildlife. Fishing in many Massachusetts water bodies is restricted due to mercury contamination.
- ▶ When a lamp breaks, projected shards of glass may injure eyes or skin.

Handling

- ▶ Wear glasses when handling lamps. Store lamps in box or case to prevent breakage. Keep out of reach of children or pets.



Management Options

- ▶ Save unbroken lamps for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.
- ▶ Do not dispose of in the trash.
- ▶ Individual broken lamps should be placed in a sealed container and disposed of in the trash.

Gasoline



Hazards

- ▶ Gasoline is highly flammable and can be explosive.
- ▶ Gasoline contains benzene, a known carcinogen. Benzene and other toxic compounds found in gasoline vaporize readily and can be inhaled.



Handling

- ▶ Store gasoline in a labeled container that is approved for gasoline storage.
- ▶ Do not fill up the container to the top; leave some air space to allow for expansion.

- ▶ Store gasoline in a cool, dry place, away from any motor driven machine that could cause sparks, including washers and dryers. Keep out of direct sunlight.
- ▶ Store at ground level, not on a shelf to minimize the danger of falling and spilling.
- ▶ Never open or use near open flames or source of ignition such as sparks or cigarettes.
- ▶ Always open gasoline containers and use gasoline in a well-ventilated area, preferably outdoors, away from children and animals.
- ▶ Do not store gasoline in a car trunk. There is a threat of explosion from heat and impact.
- ▶ Do NOT dispose of down the drain, into surface water, or in the trash.
- ▶ Do NOT mix with ANY other material, including antifreeze and used oil.



Management Options

- ▶ Save for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Home Medical Waste



Hazards

- ▶ May infect other people who come in contact with trash.
- ▶ Unwanted or expired medicines or pharmaceuticals could be harmful to children or adults. Unused pharmaceuticals found in the trash may be stolen for unregulated use.
- ▶ Antibiotics poured down the drain can kill beneficial microbes and bacteria in septic systems.



Handling

- ▶ Keep sharp objects such as needles, syringes, and lancelets in secure containers out of the reach of children. Do not use glass.



Management Options

- ▶ By law, once a prescription has been issued, the pharmacy cannot take it back.
- ▶ Wrap well and place in the trash.
- ▶ Place cancer treatment drugs or radioactive medicines, tightly wrapped, in the trash.
- ▶ Place all sharp objects such as needles, syringes, and lancets in rigid plastic or metal containers with a screw-on or secure lid. Detergent or soda bottles are good. Reinforce the lid with heavy-duty tape. Label container "NOT FOR RECYCLING" and dispose of in the trash.
- ▶ Place disposable sheets, medical gloves and soiled bandages in plastic bags and securely fasten before you put them in the trash.
- ▶ Check with your Visiting Nurse Association to see if there is a prescription drug collection or re-use program in your area.

- ▶ Save for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Mercury Devices & Liquid Mercury



Hazards

- ▶ Thermostats and switches contain several grams of mercury in fragile glass bulbs or ampoules. These ampoules (as well as mercury containing thermometers) may break, releasing droplets of toxic mercury.
- ▶ Mercury is toxic to the human nervous system, as well as fish and animals. Mercury can enter the body either through skin absorption or through inhalation of mercury vapors. At room temperature, small beads of mercury will vaporize.



Handling of small spills (one small item)

- ▶ Seal off room from other indoor spaces, ventilate to the outside.
- ▶ Take off jewelry and put on rubber gloves. Pick up mercury with an eyedropper or scoop up with stiff paper or card stock, being careful to not touch with skin or clothing. Place mercury, the broken article that contained the mercury, the eyedropper or card stock and anything else that touched the mercury in a sealed glass or plastic container and label it MERCURY.
- ▶ Do not vacuum because it breaks up and heats droplets, facilitating vaporization. Once a vacuum cleaner has been used for a mercury spill, it will continue to release mercury into the air and is therefore safest to discard the contaminated machine rather than continue to use it.
- ▶ Use duct or packing tape to clean up small particles that could not be gathered with the card stock.
- ▶ Do not wash mercury into drains.
- ▶ Do not wash mercury contaminated clothing or items in washing machine.



Handling of large spills (over 1 pound or 2 Tablespoons)

- ▶ Immediately evacuate everyone from the room and close the doors. Turn off central heating or cooling system.
- ▶ Call DEP at 617-556-1133 or 888-304-1133 (24 hours) to report the spill. Notify local health department and ask if they have a mercury spill kit. DEP emergency response personnel will advise you on further actions.



Management options

- ▶ Bring unbroken mercury devices or contained liquid mercury to the Acton Board of Health Office during normal business hours, 8am – 5pm, Monday – Friday.
- ▶ Take mercury containing devices and mercury contaminated clothing to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.



Motor Oil & Oil Filters

Hazards

- ▶ Oil is toxic to fish and other animals and plants.
- ▶ One quart of oil can contaminate a million gallons of drinking water.
- ▶ Undrained oil filters can contain up to 12 ounces of motor oil.



Handling

- ▶ Collect oil in a clean container with screw cap, such as the original container or clean, labeled plastic jug. Do not mix oil with any other liquids. Cap container to keep out dirt and water.
- ▶ Do NOT dispose of used oil in the trash, on the ground, down the drain, down a sewer drain, or by burning it (except in permitted oil burners).
- ▶ Clean up spills with kitty litter, vermiculite or rags, place in a bag and dispose of in the trash.
- ▶ Oil filters: Puncture domed part of the oil filter with a sharp tool. Drain filters on a rack while they are "hot" for 12 hours, capture the oil for recycling as described above.



Management Options

Used Oil:

- ▶ Return used oil for recycling to the store where you purchased it. Retailers are required to accept used oil for recycling (up to 2 gallons per person per day) if you have the purchase receipt.
- ▶ Bring your used oil to the Acton Transfer Station off Route 2. For more information call (978) 264-9624.
- ▶ Certain quick oil change chains, such as Valvoline, accept used oil.
- ▶ Bring to the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Used Oil Filters:

- ▶ Do NOT dispose of an undrained oil filter in the trash. Follow above handling instructions for draining used oil filters.
- ▶ If no recycling program is available in your community, wrap the drained used oil filter in a plastic bag with absorbents such as a rag or kitty litter, and place in the trash.

Muriatic Acid (HCl)



Hazards

- ▶ Muriatic or hydrochloric acid causes severe irritation or burns to skin and eyes.
- ▶ Vapors may irritate respiratory tract.



Handling

- ▶ Wear clothing that covers exposed skin areas. Use gauntlet-style acid-resistant gloves and eye protection when working with acid.
- ▶ Use only in well ventilated areas.
- ▶ Always add acid to water... ***never add water to acid.***
- ▶ Do not mix muriatic acid with any other chemicals.



Management Options

- ▶ Do NOT dispose down the drain or in storm drains.
- ▶ Do NOT dispose of in the trash: liquid wastes can leak in a trash truck and react with other chemicals.
- ▶ To neutralize: In a large, 3-5 gallon plastic container, mix a one-pound box of sodium bicarbonate with a large quantity of water, mix, but leave some of the sodium bicarbonate visible at the bottom of the container. Slowly and carefully add the acid to the mixture stirring cautiously to avoid splashing. When the acid ceases to react (fizzing) and/or the sodium carbonate can be seen as a paste on the bottom of the container, the acid has been neutralized and can then be disposed down the drain. Should the acid not become neutralized, carefully add more sodium bicarbonate to the mixture.
- ▶ Take to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Paints and Stains



Hazards

- ▶ Oil based paints and stains contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that vaporize at room temperature; vapors may be toxic when inhaled.
- ▶ Oil based paints and stains are flammable - store away from sources of sparks or heat.
- ▶ Old oil based paints and marine paints may contain lead, mercury, chromium or cadmium, which are toxic to humans, animals and the environment.



Handling

- ▶ Containers should be opened in a well-ventilated area. Wear appropriate respirator or cartridge mask when pouring off or mixing large volumes of oil-based paints.
- ▶ Identify leftover paint as latex or oil-based. Latex paint is labeled as such or has instructions to clean up with water. Oil based paint may be labeled "alkyd", "contains solvents", "clean up with mineral spirits", or "combustible."
- ▶ Pourable paint may be reused, unless it contains lead. To test if paint is still good, paint a small test area on clean surface and allow to dry for 48 hours. Place a piece of masking tape over the paint and pull off. If paint comes off on the tape, the paint is no longer good.

- ▶ To store usable paint for long periods of time, cover the opening of the paint can with a piece of plastic wrap and seal the lid tightly. Store the can upside down and away from heat.
- ▶ Do not store latex paint outside or in unheated area. Frozen latex paint cannot be reused.
- ▶ Do not put liquid paint in the trash or down the drain.
- ▶ Do not dry out oil based paints, stains, or wood finishes to dispose of in the trash. The volatile chemicals are air pollutants.



Management Options

For surplus latex or oil-based paints

- ▶ If the paint is usable and there is a reasonable quantity, try to donate it to a community service organization or theater group.
- ▶ Latex paint can be disposed of as trash if dry. To dry small amounts, remove lid and let the paint dry in the can. For larger amounts, mix in kitty litter or pour one-inch layers of paint in a cardboard box lined with a plastic bag. Stir the paint occasionally to speed drying. Put completely dried paint in the trash.
- ▶ Hardened oil-based paint can also be disposed of in the trash.
- ▶ If no reuse or recycling option is available or convenient for oil-based paints, they should be saved for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Paints that contain lead, mercury, chromium or cadmium

- ▶ Do NOT use up and do NOT give away. Toxic metals will remain in painted item.
- ▶ Save for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

Empty paint cans:

- ▶ Empty paint cans may be disposed of in the trash. Leave lids off so the hauler can see that the can is empty.

Pesticides



Hazards

- ▶ Pesticides and herbicides are designed to be toxic to pests and can harm birds, fish, pets and humans if misused.
- ▶ If lawn chemicals, pesticides or herbicides are used in larger doses than recommended on the label, runoff can have an adverse effect on drinking water supplies and the environment.



Handling

- ▶ Avoid buying more product than you need, as it is likely to become waste at a later date.
- ▶ Store pesticides in original containers that are closed and labeled, in a secure area out of reach of children and pets. Avoid storing pesticides in damp areas where containers may become moist or rusty. Pesticides should NOT be stored near food.

- ▶ Follow label instructions strictly about where and how much to apply.
- ▶ Do NOT put pesticides in the trash or down the drain.
- ▶ Use rubber gloves when handling pesticides and use an appropriate cartridge mask if using products extensively.
- ▶ Do NOT use or give away banned pesticides or pesticides that are no longer registered for use. EPA maintains a list of over 50 banned pesticides on the web at <http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/international/piclist.htm>. To find out whether a product is no longer registered for use in Massachusetts, contact the Mass. Pesticide Bureau at (617) 626-1700 or check their web site at <http://www.state.ma.us/dfa/pesticides/>.
- ▶ For questions on specific pesticides and environmentally friendly products and procedures, such as Integrated Pest Management, call the Mass Pesticide Bureau or check their web site.
- ▶ For more information on identifying pesticides, their health hazards, and use and Management guidelines, call the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network at (800) 858-7378 or visit their web site at <http://nptn.orst.edu/>.



Management Options

Banned or Unregistered Pesticides:

- ▶ If the pesticide is banned or no longer registered for use, save in original container for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Registered Pesticides:

- ▶ If the product is still registered for use, use up according to directions on the label or donate it to a friend or neighbor who can use it.
- ▶ If you no longer have a use for the product and are not able to give it away, save it for a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.

Empty Containers:

- ▶ Do NOT recycle or reuse pesticide containers.
- ▶ Empty containers should be triple rinsed and then disposed of in the trash. Take the following steps to triple rinse a container:
 1. Fill the empty pesticide container with cold water and use the rinse water as if it were full-strength product, in accordance with the label instructions.
 2. Repeat this procedure two more times.
 3. Do NOT pour rinse water down the drain.
 4. Once the container is empty and triple rinsed, it should be wrapped in newspaper and disposed of in the trash.
- ▶ Do NOT triple rinse containers for banned or unregistered pesticides. Save these for the next Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day.



Photo Chemicals

Hazards

- ▶ Silver may be found in significant concentrations in fixer solution. Silver is a toxic contaminant that can disturb the biological action of a sewage treatment plant and harm aquatic life such as fish and other organisms.
- ▶ Some fixer solutions are corrosive and can burn skin and eyes.
- ▶ Some individuals are allergic to sulfites in photo processing solutions.



Handling

- ▶ Protect eyes from splashes and skin from direct contact.
- ▶ Store solutions in plastic buckets or bottles. Keep containers tightly closed when not in use.
- ▶ Clearly label containers with the contents.
- ▶ Store materials in a secure area that is locked and out of reach of children.
- ▶ Keep dark room ventilated when using photographic chemicals.



Management Options

- ▶ Photographic waste liquids should NOT be poured down the drain if connected to a septic system.
- ▶ In sewered areas, developer and rinse solutions in small quantities may be poured down the drain.
- ▶ Some local photo processing businesses may accept *silver bearing fixer waste* for recycling and Management.
- ▶ Call DEP at 617-292-5898 for list of companies who reclaim photographic wastes.
- ▶ Take spent fixer solutions to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Pool Chemicals



Hazards

- ▶ Sodium hypochlorite, the active ingredient in most pool chemicals, can irritate eyes and skin.
- ▶ Sodium hypochlorite is highly reactive; can cause fire if in contact with organic materials.



Handling

- ▶ Handle with rubber gloves.
- ▶ Do not mix with ammonia or vinegar as it will produce toxic chloramine gas.



Management Options

- ▶ Sodium hypochlorite is the same chemical used in most water treatment facilities. Check with your facility to see if they will accept it.
- ▶ Do not dispose of in the trash or down the drain.
- ▶ Take to Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Propane Tanks



Hazards

- ▶ Tanks containing fuel under pressure may explode if tank integrity is altered, causing severe injury or death.
- ▶ Tanks containing compressed gas may explode in waste-to-energy facilities.



Handling

- ▶ DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REMOVE VALVE FROM TANK. Special safety equipment is required to prevent explosion.
- ▶ Tanks in good condition with old fittings may be reused with adapter purchased at most propane gas dealers.
- ▶ Use up all residual gas, for non-refillable (disposable) tanks
- ▶ Do not leave valve open, because escaping gas is a fire hazard as well as a source of air pollution.



Management Options

- ▶ Do NOT dispose of tanks containing gas in the trash.
- ▶ Check Yellow Page listings under "Gas - Propane" for company who will take tank for reuse.
- ▶ Scrap metal yards may take empty tanks. Consult local phone directory.
- ▶ Very small EMPTY disposable tanks (1 liter) can be disposed of in the trash.
- ▶ Save for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.

Smoke Detectors



Hazards

- ▶ Certain smoke detectors contain a radioactive sensing device, but the radioactivity is so low that it is considered harmless.



Handling

- ▶ No special instructions on handling.



Management Options

- ▶ Remove battery and dispose of smoke detector in the trash.

Thinners & Solvents



Hazards

- ▶ Thinners and solvents contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can be toxic to inhale.
- ▶ Thinners and solvents can be absorbed through the skin.
- ▶ Thinners and solvents are flammable.
- ▶ Some solvents are carcinogenic.



Handling

- ▶ Keep thinners and solvents in closed and labeled glass or metal containers. Some plastic containers may deteriorate in contact with solvent.
- ▶ Store thinners and solvents away from sources of sparks or heat.
- ▶ Do NOT put left-over product in the trash or down the drain.



Management Options

- ▶ If product is unused, try to give it away to someone else who can use it.
- ▶ Solvents mixed with paint may be reused. First, let solids settle out and pour off liquids for future use as a solvent. Label container clearly.
- ▶ The solids may be disposed of at an Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. For more information and the next date, call (978) 264-9634.
- ▶ Alternatively the solids may be dried out by adding absorbents such as kitty litter or vermiculite, in a well ventilated area, away from ignition sources such as appliances with a motor or pilot light and out of reach of children and pets. Dried solids can be disposed of in the trash.
- ▶ Small amounts of used or new paint thinner can be added into oil-based paint. Add to same color paint as that used with the thinner.

Wood, Treated



Hazards

- ▶ Treated wood may contain Creosote, Pentachlorophenol, Chromated Copper Arsenicals (CCA).

- ▶ Creosote is typically used on telephone poles, railroad ties and marine lumber applications. Creosote is a tar-like material containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, some of which are carcinogenic.
- ▶ Pentachlorophenol can be absorbed through the skin. Although health effects in humans of limited exposure is unknown, exposure of this chemical to certain animals has caused sickness and death.
- ▶ Chromated Copper Arsenicals (CCA), the wood preservative used in pressure treated wood, is not considered hazardous to humans with limited contact. However, precautions are recommended for working with CCA treated wood (see CCA bulletin on EPA web page).



Handling

- ▶ Aged creosote or CCA -treated wood can be reused in landscaping.
- ▶ Do not burn in a fireplace because toxic compounds may be emitted.



Management Options

- ▶ Households may dispose of treated wood in the trash, although local size restrictions may require pieces to be cut.
- ▶ Large amounts of treated wood must be disposed of in specially permitted waste-to-energy facilities located outside of Massachusetts. For more information, call 617-292-5704.

Wood with Lead Paint



Hazards

- ▶ Ingested lead paint chips have been proven to cause brain damage in children.



Handling

- ▶ Handle items (moldings, doors and windows) in a way that minimizes paint chipping.



Management Options

- ▶ Households may dispose of painted wood in the trash, although local size restrictions may require pieces to be cut.

For more information, call the Massachusetts Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Hotline at 800-532-9571 or 617-753-8400.

General rules for consumers to manage Hazardous Household Products

- ▶ **Use up and store the product according to label directions.**
- ▶ **Use household chemical products only in well-ventilated areas or outside.**
- ▶ **Do not leave products unattended in the middle of a job.**
- ▶ **Keep children and pets away when products are in use.**
- ▶ **Keep lids on containers tightly sealed whenever the container does not need to be open.**
- ▶ **Store products out of reach of children and pets and away from food.**
- ▶ **Store away from sources of heat, flame, or sparks.**
- ▶ **Do not smoke while using hazardous household products.**
- ▶ **Do not mix different wastes, keep in original container.**
- ▶ **If the container gets wet, damaged, or begins to corrode, keep the product in the original container and place the damaged container inside a plastic bucket with a tight-fitting lid. Clearly label the container and include any label warnings from the product.**
- ▶ **If you no longer plan to use up a product that is still usable, donate to a friend or community organization that can use it.**
- ▶ **Liquid wastes should not go in solid waste landfills or combustion facilities.**
- ▶ **If you have any questions concerning hazardous materials, contact the Acton Board of Health Office at (978) 264-9634.**

Important Hazardous Waste Phone Numbers:

Acton Board of Health Office 978-264-9634

For consumer questions on HHW:

DEP Household Hazardous Waste Hotline 800-343-3420

For questions from businesses about how to manage hazardous materials:

DEP Business Compliance Assistance 617-292-5898

For confidential technical assistance to businesses by a non-regulatory agency:

Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance 617-626-1060

For poison exposure information:

Poison Control 617-232-2120

For questions specifically about used oil collection centers:

DEP Used Oil Hotline 617-556-1022

To report unlawful dumping of hazardous materials

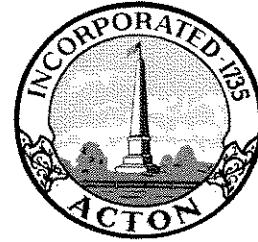
DEP Environmental Strike Force 1-800-VIOLATE

To report a hazardous waste spill

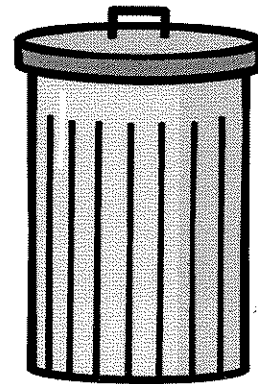
DEP Spill Hotline 1-888-304-1133

TOWN OF ACTON TRANSFER STATION

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS!

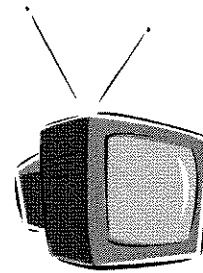
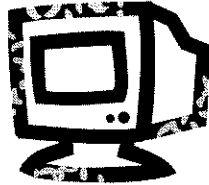
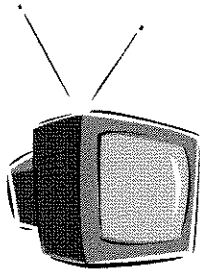


- Concrete
- Cement Blocks
- Stone
- Dirt (Sand, Gravel, Stone)
- Stumps
- Railroad Ties
- Pressure Treated Lumber
- Lumber more than 4 feet in length
- Brush
- Asphalt Shingles
- Sheetrock
- 55 Gallon Drums (unless cut in half)
- Propane Tanks (large or small)
- Tires on Rims
- Asbestos
- Fluorescent Light Fixtures with Ballast



The following items are also unacceptable for disposal at the transfer station, however, can be disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day in May or September. Call the Board of Health at 978-264-9634 for more details.

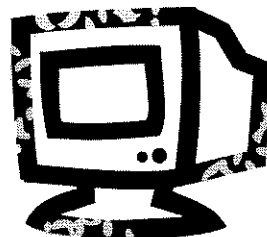
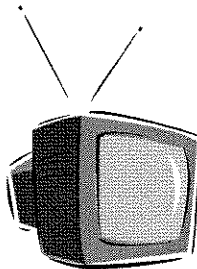
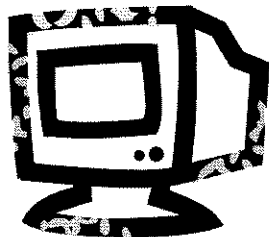
- Oil Pants and Stains
- Thinners and Solvents
- Pesticides
- Anti-Freeze
- Gasoline
- Medical Waste
- Art and Craft Supplies (Solvents)
- Photo Chemicals
- Pool Chemicals
- Mercury Devices and Liquid Mercury (Thermostats/Switches)



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day News

The Acton Board of Health is pleased to announce that at Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day residents are afforded the opportunity to dispose of Televisions and CRT's (computer monitors). The Board of Health would also like to inform residents that there will be a charge for this disposal (\$25 per unit). This fee will be payable on the day of collection, and can be made with cash or by check payable to the Town of Acton.

Please contact the Health Department at 978-264-9634 with any questions on this disposal.



IT'S TIME TO BRING THE SKELETONS OUT OF YOUR CLOSET!

The Town of Acton will help you banish the evil spirits that haunt your closet, basement and garage.

What To Bring

Unneeded household hazardous waste in sealed containers (use original containers when possible).

- Oil Paints
 - Stains, Thinners & Strippers
 - Solvents & Varnishes
 - Adhesives, Glues, Resins
 - Waste Fuels (Kerosene, Gasoline)
 - Engine Degreaser, Brake Fluid
 - Transmission Fluid, Antifreeze
 - Poisons, Insecticides, Weed Killers
 - Wood Preservatives
 - Hobby Supplies, Artist Supplies
 - Photo Chemicals, Chemistry Sets
 - Cleaners, Spot Removers
 - Swimming Pool Chemicals
 - Car Batteries, Household Batteries
 - Aerosol Cans
 - Pesticides
 - Ni-Cad Batteries
 - Hearing Aid (Button) batteries
 - Motor Oil
 - CRT's (Televisions, Computer Monitors)
- NOTE:** There will be a charge of \$25 per unit for collection of TV's and Computer Monitors. This fee is payable at the time of the Collection Day by cash or by check payable to the Town of Acton.

Town of Acton	
Household Hazardous Waste Day	
Date:	Contact the Board of Health
Time:	For Future Dates and Times
Place:	DPW Yard 14 Forest Road
Who:	Acton Residents ONLY
Proof of Residency Required Such as a Driver's License	

What Not To Bring

- Asbestos
- Smoke Detectors
- Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Ammunition, Fireworks, Explosives
- Prescription Medicine
- Commercial or Industrial Waste
- Infectious & Biological Waste
- Syringes
- Radioactive Waste
- Fire Extinguishers
- Latex Paint (pop lid, let dry, throw away)
- Oil Filters (punch hole in dome, drain for 24 hours, save oil for recycling, put in trash after draining)

To Ensure Safety, Please:

- Tighten caps and lids leaving materials in original labeled containers.
- Pack containers in sturdy upright boxes and pad with newspaper.
- Sort and pack separately: paint, pesticides, household cleaners.
- Avoid spills and do not place in a garbage bag.
- NEVER MIX CHEMICALS!
- Pack your vehicle and go directly to the site.
- NEVER SMOKE while handling hazardous materials.

